

Education and Social Policy, Kelly returned to Cleveland and began working with the then CBS affiliate WJW-TV8 as a reporter and part-time anchor. She gained national recognition while covering the Southern Ohio Correctional riots in Lucasville, Ohio in 1993. She eventually won a regional Emmy based on her work of the riots.

Less than a year after the Lucasville prison riots, Kelly was working as an NBC reporter. During the past seventeen years with NBC, Kelly has covered stories including the September 11th attacks, the passing of Pope John Paul II, Queen Elizabeth's 50th Jubilee, the Shuttle *Columbia* disaster, the CIA Leak trial, the Columbine school shooting, John F. Kennedy Jr.'s plane crash, the Oklahoma City bombing and trials of Timothy McVeigh and Terry Nichols, the O.J. Simpson saga and numerous Olympic Games. She has also been embedded with the Third Infantry Division in Fallujah, worked several presidential campaigns, and served as the NBC News' White House Correspondent from May 2005 to December 2007. Today she can be found as a contributor to NBC Nightly News with Brian Williams, TODAY, and on MSNBC.

In addition to her local Emmy, Kelly has been nominated for several national Emmy Awards. She was inducted into the Ohio Radio/Television Broadcasters Hall of Fame in 2004 and received two first place awards from the Los Angeles Press Club. Kelly was twice part of NBC Nightly News' teams to be awarded the Edward R. Murrow Award, and in 2007 she was named Capitol Hill Correspondent.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in congratulating NBC's Kelly O'Donnell as the Press Club of Cleveland inducts her into the Cleveland Journalism Hall of Fame, Class of 2011.

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#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. MICHAEL G. GRIMM**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 27, 2011*

Mr. GRIMM. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 811, I had district work that required my presence. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

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#### RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT AND DEDICATED SERVICE OF TOMMIE SPEIGHTS

**HON. JEFF MILLER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 27, 2011*

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Tommie Speights, upon his retirement from the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) as District 3 Public Information Director, after 22 years of service to the State of Florida.

Born in Panama City, Florida and raised in Marianna, Mr. Speights worked in a number of

different capacities prior to joining FDOT. A true patriot, he chose to serve his country during the Vietnam era and wore the uniform of the United States Army. Upon being honorably discharged from the Army, he attended Chipola Junior College and Florida A&M University. After completing his studies in Broadcast Journalism, he worked as a television news reporter for CBS affiliate WTVY-TV 4 News in Dothan, Alabama. During his 15 years there, he received several awards, including one from the Associated Press for "Best Investigative Reporting."

In 1989, Mr. Speights began his impressive career with FDOT as Public Information Director for District 3. This district includes 16 counties in Northwest Florida, stretching from Jefferson County in the east to Escambia County in the west. For the last 22 years he has devoted his professional life to helping those in need. Serving others brings him great satisfaction, and co-workers and supervisors alike applaud Mr. Speights for his dependability and unwavering commitment.

My wife Vicki and I wish him; his wife, the former Lillie Kendall of Marianna; their three children, Sheilah, Ron, and Marisa; and four grand-children, Alexis, NyAsia, Amarion, and Kensley all the best.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am honored to congratulate Mr. Speights on his retirement and thank him for his service to Northwest Florida and our great nation.